

REMARKS

The amendments made by this Reply are formatted in accordance with the newly suggested revised amended format.

Applicants continue to traverse the restriction/election requirement and note the Examiner's acknowledgement that claim 1 constitutes a generic claim. Although Applicant has made a minor clarifying amendment to claim 1, the amendment is not intended to be substantive in nature and, accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 remains generic.

Generic claim 1 and several other claims have been amended to distinguish between the product sample itself and the product sample in combination with the upper and lower hinge members which is now identified as a "display sample". Antecedent basis for use of "display sample" in the claims is provided in an amendment to paragraph [0025] of the specification. No new matter is added since Applicants are merely providing a name for a combination of items which are all fully disclosed in the application.

The drawings have been objected to for failing to show reference numeral "51A" in paragraph [0029]. The drawings are correct; the reference to "51A" in paragraph [0025] was incorrect. Paragraph [0029] of the specification has been corrected so that there is no longer a reference to numeral "51A".

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ehrlich. Ehrlich does not disclose or suggest a display sample where the rigidity of a product sample maintains a selected spacing of upper and lower hinge members. In Ehrlich, the product samples are posters 70 which are not rigid. In fact extra posters are rolled and maintained behind the displayed poster as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4a. Ehrlich requires the use of a stiff cardboard frame 71 or rigid sheet 81 on which the poster is displayed. The present invention achieves the elimination of frame members and relies upon the rigidity of the product sample itself to perform that function. The rectangular rigid sheets 81, 82 and 83 in the embodiment of Figure 4A of Ehrlich are part of the display frame and are not the "product sample" as defined by claim 1.

Claims 1 and 3-6 are also rejected as obvious over Tenser et al. in view of L.H. Best. Neither Tenser et al. nor Best, alone or in combination, discloses a display sample wherein the rigidity of a product sample maintains spacing between upper and lower hinge members. The Tenser et al. display items are supported with a single pin system and are not of the type defined by the claims. Clearly claim 1 patentably defines over the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims, both product and method, rely upon the rigidity of a product sample to maintain the spacing between the upper and lower hinge members so that the respective upper and lower pins can be

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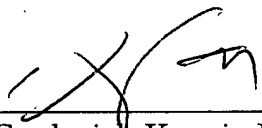
mated with the display rack for which it is intended. This concept is not disclosed or suggested in any of the references. Moreover, any reference which would disclose or suggest the claimed methods would need to disclose or suggest the resultant display sample where upper and lower hinge members are maintained in a spaced relationship by the rigidity of the product sample. Accordingly it is appropriate for all of the claims to be allowed in this application.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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